

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 CU-02 BIB-01 EB-07 OTPE-00

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R 191858Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1504

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1912

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE: INFORMATION: RADIO BROADCASTING

REF: STATE 57244

1. AFTER CONSULTING WITH ALLIES, WE GAVE SOVIET AMBASSADOR DUBININ ON MARCH 18 TEXT TRANSMITTED PARA ONE REFTEL. DURING US-SOVIET LUNCH ON MARCH 17, AMBASSADOR SHERER SPOKE IN GENERAL TERMS TO SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD KOVALEV ABOUT OUR STRONG INTEREST IN OBTAINING AGREEMENT TO A POSITIVELY WORDED TEXT ON AUDIO-VISUAL INFORMATION. IN GIVING DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT TO DUBININ, WE ELABORATED ON SHERER'S STATEMENT, STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE TO US CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC OPINION, AND INDICATED THAT DEPARTMENT REGARDS THIS AS A MODERATELY-WORDED COUNTER-DRAFT TO THE SOVIET'S EARLIER PROPOSAL. THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION, WE NOTED THAT WE WERE CARRYING OUT VERY PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS ISSUE.

2. DUBININ RESPONDED THAT SECOND SENTENCE IN DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT ("EXPRESS THE CONVICTION THAT RADIO

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AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS ... WILL CONTINUE TO CON-

TRIBUTE TO THE STRENGTH OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG PEOPLES") AMOUNTS TO AN ENDORSEMENT OF RFE-RL BROADCASTS. HE WAS SURE THAT THIS WOULD BE "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE" TO MOSCOW. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT TEXT TO HIS AUTHORITIES AND ASK FOR AN EARLY INSTRUCTED RESPONSE.

3. ALLUDING TO EARLIER US-SOVIET CONVERSATIONS HERE, DUBININ SAID IT REMAINED SOVIET DESIRE TO SKIRT THIS CONTENTIOUS ISSUE, WHICH COULD NEVER BE SETTLED AT CSCE. HE SAID VEHICLE FOR DOING THIS SHOULD BE AGREEMENT ON LANGUAGE ALONG LINES OF TEXT SOVIETS GAVE US SOME TIME AGO. (GENEVA 1499): "THEY WILL FACILITATE THE IMPORT BY COMPETENT ORGANIZATIONS AND FIRMS OF AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL, PROMOTING, IN THE LIGHT OF EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES, ACCESS TO SUCH MATERIAL FROM THE OTHER PARTICIPATING STATES."

4. WE NOTED THAT ABOVE SOVIET TEXT WOULD HAVE CSCE PARTICIPANTS FACILITATE ONLY ACCESS TO IMPORTED MATERIAL. THUS IT DEALS, IN EFFECT, WITH A DIFFERENT SUBJECT THAN THAN COVERED IN US PROPOSED TEXT.

5. DUBININ ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS IS TRUE BUT ADDED THAT HE DID NOT SEE ANY OTHER PRACTICAL BASIS FOR DEALING WITH ACCESS TO AUDIO-VISUAL INFORMATION AT CSCE. ACCESS TO OFFICIAL RADIO BROADCASTS TO SOVIET UNION IS OPEN TO EVERYONE WHO HAS A RADIO SET. SOVIETS, HOWEVER, COULD NEVER ACCEPT PRINCIPLE OF FREE ACCESS TO RFE-RL. WITH RESPECT TO TELEVISION, THERE WERE NO OBSTACLES TO ACCESS TO TELECASTS FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES THAT COULD BE RECEIVED ON SETS IN THE SOVIET UNION OR EASTERN EUROPE. HOWEVER, MOSCOW WOULD NEVER ACCEPT LANGUAGE THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS AN ASSURANCE OF FREE ACCESS TO POSSIBLE FUTURE TELECASTS VIA SATELLITE.

5. WE WILL TRANSMIT INSTRUCTED SOVIET RESPONSE AS SOON AS WE HAVE IT. DALE

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